

## LIFE GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

For the week of March 24, 2024

### LEADER NOTES

#### MEETING NOTES

##### ⇒ LEADER TIP

Your goal each night is to lead your group in such a way that you hear from everyone and use the Bible as your guide. Know that if you do this each week the people in your group will grow! **Remember you don't need to cover all questions. Great conversation is far more important than covering all the questions.**

##### ⇒ PRAYER NOTE

Check out the **Tips on Group Prayer at the end of this Leader's Guide. And NEVER make someone pray. Group prayer is similar to public speaking, which is the #1 fear people have.** More than once we've had people tell us they quit Life Groups because a well-intentioned person required everyone to pray.

##### ⇒ ATTENDANCE

Submit your group's attendance online through the [Planning Center Groups](#). If you are still having trouble with taking attendance online, please read this article:

<https://pcogroups.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360016180273-take-attendance>.

Find all of our leader resources online: <https://www.springfieldfaithcenter.org/leader-resources>

### CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### ⇒ GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**Friday, March 29th at 6:30 p.m.** Please join us for our Good Friday service as we reflect upon the sacrificial death of Jesus, our Crucified King. The night will include short sermons, acoustic music, and a time of reflective communion. Childcare will be available for infant to 5 years old

##### ⇒ EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

**Sunday, March 31st at 9:30 a.m. + 11:00 a.m.** Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus! Easter is a great time for people to explore faith, encounter God, and hear an encouraging message about Jesus. Invite your friends and family to one of our 2 Easter services. We can't wait to see you there!

##### UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 14th | Newcomer's Gathering**

**DISCUSSION REMINDER:** Remember, every night you want to hear from everyone in your group. Think through how you're going to ask questions so this happens. Ask various individuals what they think, go around the circle, set time limits on answers so you have time to hear from everyone.

## LIFE GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of March 24, 2024

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### BE FRIENDLY

#1 What is your earliest memory of Easter? What do you like most about Easter? What Easter traditions do you have?

**Low Risk.** Good to have everyone answer this one.

**Leader Tip:** Easter is quickly approaching. This is a good question to connect people to fond memories from childhood or current experiences.

#2 Have you ever been horseback riding (or, maybe donkey riding)? How would you describe your experience? What happened? Where were you?

**Low Risk.** Good to have everyone answer this one.

**Leader Tip:** Let the introverts and those who are more cautious in sharing have fun with this one. Donkey riding is silly, I know, but it fits with passage covered on Sunday.

### BE OPEN

#3 On Palm Sunday, we recount Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, at the beginning of the week leading up to his death and resurrection. Pastor Daniel reminded us that as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, he wasn't the sort of king the people of Israel were expecting (See Matthew 21:1-11). Read the following passages about the growing expectations of a king in the Psalms and Prophets.

**Psalms 44:4-5, NIV**

<sup>4</sup> You are my King and my God, who decrees victories for Jacob. <sup>5</sup> Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes.

**Psalms 96:10-13, NIV**

<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. <sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. <sup>12</sup> Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. <sup>13</sup> Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

**Isaiah 40:10-11, NIV**

<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. <sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

**Zechariah 9:9-11, NIV**

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.”

**Isaiah 52:7-10, NIV**

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. <sup>9</sup> Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

What common themes do you see in these verses?

**Medium Risk.** Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.

**Leader Tip:** Answers will vary.

1. God is celebrated as Israel's King
2. When God is enthroned as Israel's King, the nations are brought under his rule. Some are punished for their wickedness, but others rejoice because they are brought into the life of his people and share in their praise.
3. When God is King, the result is proper justice, real equity, and the removal of oppression and corruption.

How do these verses help to create an expectation for the sort of king the people thought should arrive to Jerusalem?

**Medium Risk.** Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.

**Leader Tip:** Answers will vary. Well, for the people, they clearly want a King who will come in ready to wage war against the foreign oppressors who are ruling over the people, namely Rome. They do not want their King to come in and die on a cross. They wanted the Messiah (King) to restore the Temple, and restore the monarchy back to the people.

#4 This weekend we saw that God's grace found David, and the Lord chose David to be king over Israel. Read the story below.

**1 Samuel 16:6-13, NIV**

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him.

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either."<sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one."<sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these."<sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."<sup>12</sup> So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."<sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

What does this phrase mean? How does it reveal God's grace?

"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

**Medium Risk.** Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.

**Leader Tip:** Answers will vary. Samuel expected the future king of Israel to look a certain, to appear a certain way, but the Lord quickly told Samuel that he isn't interested in outward appearances, it is the inner-bent of the person that matters. What matters is how someone loves God and demonstrates this love in their heart and then from the heart.

#5 Read Matthew 26:1-11.

**Matthew 21:6-11, NIV**

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

<sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Put yourself into this scene as someone in the crowd along the roadside.

What are you doing?

What do you see and hear?

What emotions are you feeling?

What are your expectations?

**Medium Risk.** *Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

**Leader Tip:** *Answers will vary. These questions allow members of your Life Group to experience the Bible as if they were there. There are no “wrong” answers. Take some time to do this exercise yourself before the Life Group meeting and let your imagination take over, especially after reading a lot of the Old Testament expectations of the coming King.*

What does this passage reveal about the character of God?

**Medium Risk.** *Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

**Leader Tip:** *Answers will vary.*

## BE VULNERABLE

#6 Pastor Daniel mentioned that Jesus is the King who offers God’s grace to everyone who *trusts* in him. What makes it difficult to trust *fully* in King Jesus? How can your Life Group help you grow in your trust of Jesus?

**High Risk.** *A few people may want to answer this question.*

**Leader Tip:** *Answers will vary. As a leader, try to be vulnerable with your group and think of an area in your life where you struggle or have struggled completely trusting in Jesus. Here are some possible areas:*

- *Marriage or singleness*
- *Family relationships*
- *Parenting – little kids, adult kids, grandkids*
- *Finances*
- *Job*
- *Sexuality*
- *Mental health*
- *Physical health and wellness*

#7 Where is God extending his amazing grace in your life today? Or, asked differently, in what area of your life would you like God to extend his grace?

**High Risk.** *A few people may want to answer this question.*

**Leader Tip:** *Answers will vary. The same areas discussed in the question before could easily fit into the answers for this question.*

**Close in prayer:**

**TOPICAL PRAYER:** *Prayer is an amazing avenue God has given us to communicate with him and he with us. But we also come to it with a lot of different thoughts and feelings.*

### TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

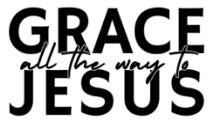
*Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.*

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

**WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.

**Eat dessert:** *Mingle with everyone.*



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## GRACE FOUND DAVID

### The Triumphal Entry and the Son of David

- Jesus was not the sort of **king** the people of Israel were **expecting**.
- David doesn't show us the **requirement** for receiving God's grace, he shows us the proper **response** to it.
- Through David God built a **nation**, but through Jesus God builds a **kingdom**.

### Take Home Thoughts

- Jesus is the king who offers God's grace to everyone who trusts in him.
- Where is God extending his grace in your life, today?